



**Testimony in support of
SB 373 – An Act Limiting Changes to Health Insurers' Prescription Drug Formularies
7 March 2016**

Senator Crisco, Representative Megna, and members of the committee, my name is Shawn Lang, and I'm the Deputy Director with AIDS CT, CT's only statewide organization whose sole focus is HIV/AIDS.

I'm here to testify in support of SB 373 – An Act Limiting Changes to Health Insurers' Prescription Drug Formularies.

I never knew an insurer could remove a medication from its formulary until it happened to me. Like many women my age, I take medication for osteoporosis. The particular medication I was prescribed was to me take once a month. Sometime last year, when I went to pick up my re-fill, I was told that my insurance no longer covered that medication. Just out of the blue. No notice, no explanation. Fortunately, I'm someone who can advocate for myself and was able to get a different prescription fairly quickly. But what about someone with a chronic health condition, or someone who doesn't have the same capacities that I do?

The bill inadvertently deletes protections for consumers regarding step therapy protections--- those should stay in. That deletion was never the intent of the legislation.

I urge you to support SB 373.

Thank you. I'm happy to answer any questions you might have.

Shawn M. Lang, Deputy Director, AIDS CT
860.247.2437 X319
slang@aids-ct.org